

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE TRINIDAD CITY COUNCIL**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

- Mayor Bhardwaj called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. Council members in attendance: Morgan, Miller, Bhardwaj, Davies, Fulkerson.
- City Staff in attendance: City Manager Steve Albright, City Attorney Paul Hagen, City Clerk Gabriel Adams.

**II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**III. ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION** – No closed session scheduled.

**IV. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- *Motion (Fulkerson/Bhardwaj) to approve the agenda as amended. Passed unanimously.*

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**December 08, 2010 cc**

*Motion (Ratzlaff/Fulkerson) to approve all the minutes as amended. Passed 4-0.*

**December 14, 2010 scc**

*Motion (Ratzlaff/Fulkerson) to approve all the minutes as amended. Passed 4-0.*

**VII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Bhardwaj:

- **HCAOG:**

Morgan:

Fulkerson:

**VIII. STAFF REPORTS**

City Manager - Albright: Summarized staff activities report and highlighted various other accomplishments.

**IX. ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR**

**John Spyropoulos** – Trinidad Resident

**X. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Staff Activities Report through December, 2010
2. Financial Status Reports for November, 2010
3. Professional Services Agreement with Steve Albright
4. Revision of MOU with the Trinidad Rancheria for Prop 84 ASBS Project

**XI. AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Appointments of Council Members to Varied Boards and Commissions  
City Manager Albright explained that members of Trinidad's City Council represent the City on various committees, boards and commissions. In addition, the Council appoints citizen members to the Planning Commission and periodically to other committees. At the last Council meeting, it was agreed to summarize all of the boards and committees that requires representation on the Council.

Mayor Bhardwaj has shared this information with the Council members and compiled each person's requests for committee service. Her suggestions for appointments, which attempt to divide the workload responsibilities and honor individual requests, is shown on the attached list.

Public comment included:

2. Appointment(s) to the Trinidad Planning Commission

City Manager Albright explained that there are currently three open slots on the Trinidad Planning Commission. All three are due to expiring terms. Of the three, only Richard Johnson (current Chairman of the Planning Commission) is requesting reappointment.

To date, two additional individuals have requested consideration for appointment. One of the two persons is a Trinidad resident. Since the letter of interest was received only recently, the Council has not yet had the opportunity to "interview" the candidate as has been done in the past.

Draft motion

1. Reappoint Richard Johnson to second four-year term;
2. Over the next month, interview the other candidates who have submitted a letter of interest; and
3. Reopen the period for filing through January 28, 2011 in an effort to receive additional candidates.

*Motion (Fulkerson/Miller) to approve Resolution 2010-18. **Passed unanimously.***

3. Report on the Process to Replace the City Manager

City Manager Albright announced his retirement from the City in early November. Since that time, Mayor Bhardwaj and Mayor Pro-Tem Fulkerson have been working with the City Manager to plan for a smooth transition to a new City Manager.

Several actions have taken place since that time:

- An Advertisement and complete Job Description have been prepared.
- Ads have been placed in Jobs Available; the Times Standard newspaper (3 times), Craigslist.org (ongoing), and the local Employment Development Department of the State. The ad deadline was set for January 14, 2011.
- To date, three applications have been received and at least two more are anticipated.
- Rebecca Price-Hall has been working as a part-time employee (about 12 hours per week) to help the City Manager in preparing for the transition,

Council comments included:

**Miller:**

4. Report on Pampas Grass Survey

City Manager Albright explained that in October, Marie Kelleher-Roy spoke to the Council regarding invasive plant species and their impact on the California coast. She concentrated her comments on pampas grass.

The Council authorized the City Clerk to provide her a list of name/addresses of Trinidad's residents so that she could contact them about the Native Plant Society's desire to do a complete inventory of pampas grass in

Trinidad. That was done, and over the past three months a survey has been completed. Marie Keller-Roy will give a brief report on the Society's findings within the City of Trinidad

5. Report on Van Wycke Trail Improvements.

City Manager Albright explained that City staff is investigating how best to improve the Van Wycke Trail. It has been closed temporarily because there has been continued slippage and erosion of the ground beneath the trail, creating a potentially dangerous condition. The entire trail is part of the original right-of-way of the City that was Van Wycke Street.

Since the Council last meeting, Bush Geotechnical Consultants has been retained to evaluate the land under the trail to determine its long-term stability. If both the existing drainage line and the foot path need to be relocated further from the edge of the embankment onto private property ( a new easement), then the cost of this action needs to be supported by factual information that would justify the expense.

Council comment included:

6. Options for Animal Control Functions in Trinidad

Some Council members and residents have questioned whether the City needs to have access to animal control services. While this need is infrequent, it is an important function to address when the need arises.

Currently there is no animal control function in the City of Trinidad. The City does pay a minimal monthly cost to the County so that its residents can personally stake in stray animals or pick up lost dogs, but there is no allowance in that agreement for the County to send its trained personnel to pick up sick or dangerous animals.

There appear to be two possible options. First, the City could negotiate a contract for the County for these services. It would be some type of "payment for services" contract. The City of Blue Lake now has this type of an agreement. Second, the City could investigate some form of agreement with the Trinidad Rancheria. The Rancheria apparently has a trained person and a properly equipped vehicle. At this time, it is unknown what services could be performed or if the Rancheria would be willing to entertain and agreement with the City of Trinidad

## **XII. COUNCIL REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting ended at 9:35pm.

**Submitted by:**

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**Gabriel Adams**  
City Clerk

**Approved by:**

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**Kathy Bhardwaj**  
Mayor